BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

FOR THE YEAR

1897.

MIDDLETON:
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1898.

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BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

BIRTH RATE.

During the twelve months ending December 31st 1897, 660 births were registered for the Borough, giving a birth-rate of 25-7, 341 were males, and 319 females. The annual average for the past ten years has been 30 per 1,000. The rate of infant deaths was 190, to a 1,000 births last year.

DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths registered during the year amounted to 429, and the general death rate was 18-3 per 1000. The number of deaths in each ward is given above, 159 died in the South Ward against 166 in the preceding year, in the North and West Wards the number was 135, against 149 and

159 for preceding year, respectively. The death-rates from Zymotic diseases as well as from Pulmonary diseases and Phthisis, together with the general death-rate are given below for each year since the Borough became incorporated. The tables accompanying report give full statistics.

	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
General Death Rate	20.83	20.68	20.17	20 38	24.12	18.04	18.53	16.8	18.9	19 75	19.3
Zymotic	2.04	2.48	3.14	1.33	2.29	1 26	2 04	2.04	1.9	1.5	1.36
Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	3.85	5 21	5	5.47	7.6	5.76	3.11	3.11	4.7	4.5	3.4
Phthisis	2.14	1.60	1.42	1.71	1.97	1 26	1.37	1.37	1.5	1.5	1.09

Table A required by the Local Government Board gives deaths classified according to age, diseases and wards. Table B population, births and new cases of infectious diseases during 1897, whilst Table C contains the information asked for by the Lancashire County Council, and the other tables are condensed from register of births and deaths.

The returns show that 165 children died under 5 years of age, being 20 less than 1896, but they included 126 under a year old, being 3 more than in the preceding year. 76 persons died at ages over 65 years. I find 35 deaths recorded from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases, equal to a rate of 1.36 per 1,000, against 1-5 for preceding year, of those 26 children under 5 years of age, and 9 persons over that age, and the number of deaths are shown above in each Ward under the respective headings. Besides these, 3 children died from Croup, 2 of which were under five years of age, 1 from Erysipelas, 5 from Rheumatic Fever over that age, 4 from Puerperal Fever and 4 from Whooping Cough, under 5 years.

88 deaths occurred from Bronchitis, Pluerisy, and Pneumonia during 1897 against 110 in the previous year. The number of deaths from Phthisis amounted to 28, equal to a rate of 1 per 1,000 being less than from the principal zymotic diseases: 36 deaths from Phthisis occurred during the preceding year. The comparative mortality during the four quarters from pulmonary diseases is given, together with that from Phthisis and Zymotic Diseases in the table below.

1897	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Deaths from Pulmonary Diseases.	23	21	18	16
,, Phthisis	7	12	4	5
,, Zymotic Diseases.	8	3	13	11
Total Deaths from all causes	115	120	88	106

The death-rate during the March, June, September and December quarters of 1897, were respectively 17-9, 18-6, 13-7, and 16-5 per 1,000. 100 cases of infectious diseases were notified to me during the year, against 137 in 1896, 88 in 1895, 128 in 1894, and 435 in 1893. The table below shows the cases in each Ward in less detail than Table B of the Local Government Board, and the diseases are arranged alphabetically.

	Cholera	Membranous Croup	Diptheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas
North Ward	0	1	0	0	11
South Ward	0	0	1	12	6
West Ward	0	1	3	5	9
Total	0	2	4	17	26

	Puerperal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Small Pox	Typhus	Total
North Ward	1	10	0	0	23
South Ward	2	28	0	0	49
West Ward	2	8	0	0	28
Total	5	46	0	0	100

Measles caused 10 deaths, 9 under 5 years of age and 1 over. The total cases removed to Marland Hospital amounted to 5. 25 persons died at Oldham Workhouse belonging to the Parish of Middleton, 3 under 5 and 22 over 5 years of age. During the past year no cases of Small Pox were reported, 46 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified with only 2 deaths, against 72 in the preceding year.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

During the past year, 30 of the total number of deaths were certified to by the Coroner, 16 of these were attributed to injuries (accidental or suicidal). Several children were found dead in bed under six months old, a few died of debility or other causes soon after being born. Several adults died from cardiac failure or other natural cause. Three deaths were due to suicide and one to excessive drinking, one person was accidentally drowned, and three persons not residing in the district previous to death, were found drowned. Four died from burns or scalds, aged respectively 23 months, 2 years, 7 years, and 85 years. The accidents included crushing and injury, caused by being knocked down by a fall of clay and earth whilst excavating, and injuries to head and spine, caused by falling off a load of hay, in the cases of two men, aged respectively 48 years and 31 years, in April. Two young persons lost their lives by being knocked down by vehicles in the streets, and one person died in a greenhouse, probably from apoplexy.

Three bodies were removed from the Rochdale Canal by the Police, to the nearest public-house in the neighbourhood

in which found. Although publicans in almost every instance do allow dead bodies to be deposited in their stables or outbuildings, until after inquest, I believe it is not compulsory on them to do so. In the majority of cases it is not proper to deposit dead bodies in such places, owing to the number of rats that frequent them. I think a mortuary is urgently required, and the town being well provided with litters, a central situation should be adapted for such building, as being most convenient for identification, cleansing, or disinfecting purposes.

During the year 80 house drains were trapped, 42 old privies converted to the pail system, and 25 to the slop water closets, of which there are now 651 in the borough, together with 255 water closets.

The number of privies on the pail system is now estimated by the Surveyor to be 2,238.

There has been a considerable addition of new cottages in the borough, and the remainder of the back-to-back houses should either be closed or converted into through houses, which in many instances they originally were, being used as loom-houses when silk weaving was a leading industry in the district. Back-to-back houses are great factors in the production of phthisis, they are not conducive to cleanliness, and are specially objectionable when infectious diseases occur therein, owing to want of ventilation, &c.

The many sanitary requirements of the borough, referred to in previous reports, which have yet to be carried out,

will, I trust, in the near future, receive fuller consideration now that the question of dealing with the sewage has been attended to, and the international method of disposal at work.

I am, Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

14th February, 1898.

1897.

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON

Classified Return of Births and Deaths.

	WARDS.					
	North	South.	West.	Total.		
Acreage of the Borough	1963	1171	1607	4741		
Population Census, 1891	6724	7321	8117	22162		
Estimated present population	8050	8350	9200	25600		
	Wards. N.	S.	W.	Tl.	Annual Av'r'ge per 1000 living	
Births registered during the year	—	—	—	660	25-7	1896
do. do. Last year	—	—	—	621	25-8	
Deaths—0–1 year	37	56	33	126		
1–5 years	6	19	14	39		
5–15 years	5	9	7	21		
15–25 years	7	11	13	31		
25–65 years	49	37	50	136		
65 years and upwards	31	27	18	76		
Deaths from Small Pox	—	—	—	—		
Measles	4	4	2	10		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2		
Diphtheria	—	—	1	1		
Whooping Cough	2	2	—	4		
Continued Fevers. Typhus	—	—	—	—		
Continued Fevers. Enteric or Typhoid	—	1	1	2		
Continued Fevers. Other or Doubtful	–	—	—	—		
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	2	6	8	16		
Total deaths from 7 principal zymotic diseases	8	13	14	35	1-36	1-4
Croup	2	—	1	3		
Influenza	—	—	—	—		
Cholera	—	—	—	—		
Acute Rheumatism	2	3	—	5		
Pyaemia	—	—	—	—		
Puerperal Fever	1	1	2	4		
Ague	—	—	—	—		
Phthisis	6	9	13	28		
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	25	35	28	88		
Heart Disease	13	7	10	30		
Injuries	4	7	5	16		
All other causes	74	84	61	219		
Total number of Deaths during the year	135	159	135	429	18-3	
do. Last year	149	166	159	474	19-7	
Notified cases of Infectious sickness :-						
Cholera	—	—	—	—		
Croup (membranous)	1	—	1	2		
Diphtheria	—	1	3	4		
Enteric Fever	—	12	5	17		
Erysipelas	11	6	9	26		
Puerperal Fever	1	2	2	5		
Scarlet Fever	10	28	8	46		
Small Pox	—	—	—	—		
Typhus	—	—	—	—		
Total	23	49	28	100		137

TABLE C.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report

. . . FOR 1897. . . .

Urban Sanitary District of Middleton.

Area in Statute Acres, ... 4,741

Population (Census), 1891 22,162

,, Estimated, 1897 25,600

Name of Medical Officer of Health, WILLIAM GRAHAM, M.D., D.P.H.
Salary. £60 per annum.

Births registered—Male, 341; Female, 319; Total, 660.

Deaths registered—Male, 224; Female, 205; Total, 429.

Birth Rate, 25.7. Death Rate, 13.4.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births, 199.

Death Rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population, 1.36.

Diseases prevalent?—Mild Scarlet Fever to a slight extent, and several cases of Enteric Fever toward end of year.

What Action taken?—Five cases removed to Hospital.

Any Schools Closed?—No.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?—Marland Hospital.

Is it Joint or otherwise?—Contract with Rochdale Corporation.

No. of Beds available for the District?—62.

Deaths in Hospital?—one.

From what Causes?—Enteric Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out?—By Sulphurous Acid.

Apparatus used?—No Steam Disinfector.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force?—Yes.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable?—Erysipelas and Membranous are notifiable, but Measles not so.

If so, what are they?—See above.

What is the character of House Accommodation?-Much improved.

Has any action been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890,"?—No legal action.

Have any houses condemned as unfit for human habitation been closed or demolished? If so, how many?—Many condemned but none closed or demolished.

Is the Water Supply good and subject to your inspection?—It is.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?—Yes.

By Sanitary Authority or Contract?—By Sanitary Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Carted on Farms and tipped where special provision is made.

What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal?—400,000 gallons daily being dealt with at Sewage Works on the international system at Lands End.

Canal Boats:—32 Boats inspected and found free from overcrowding and infectious disease.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—Good.

Slaughter Houses?—537 visits made by the Inspector and many by myself, they receive and require close attention. Abattoir much needed.

Lodging Houses? Are they Registered?—100 visits made by the Inspector.

Are the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops periodically inspected?-Yes.

Have any Regulations been made by your Authority under the Order of the Local Government Board?—Yes, but annual licenses should be enforced.

What amount of air space in cubic feet is required for each cow?—800 cubic feet for new buildings, 400 for old.

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result?—Yes, one workshop found dirty.

Food unfit for Human Consumption, Amount seized?—Four seizures of diseased meat, three of the seizures were effected in a slaughterhouse, two being tuberculous animals: five rabbits and a piece of fish were seized from a hawker's cart, and legal proceedings taken.

Any special report of Medical Officer of Health during the year?—No.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances: No. of notices served?—250, including 44 by order of Health Committee.

No. of Nuisances remedied?—408.

Legal Proceedings taken and result?—None, except for Meat and Smoke.

Smoke: No. of Observations?—78.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—6 prosecutions. 2 firms fined 5s. and costs, and in remainder, orders to abate and pay costs.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—12 minutes.

Has the Authority adopted—

(*a*) "The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890"?-Yes.

(*b*) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"?-Yes.

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON,

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1897.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Watch Committees.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the work done by the above Department, during the year 1897.

I am,

Yours obediently,

Charles Hy. Norton,

Nuisance Inspector.

Summary of Work Done

During the year ended 31st Dec. 1897.

Preliminary notices served	206
Formal notices by order of Committee...	44
Reported to Committee	41
Notices served in respect of black smoke	4
Smoke observations taken...	78
Prosecutions in respect of black smoke...	6
Canal Boats inspected	32
Diseased carcases seized (two beasts)	1200 lbs.
Unsound animals ,, (five rabbits)	15 ,,
,, fish ,, (one piece)	2 ,,
Diseased meat ,, (one piece)	15 ,,
Prosecution in respect of unsound food...	1
Seizures of diseased and unwholesome food	4
House chimney's on fire	26
Visits to Slaughterhouses	537
,, ,, Lodging-houses	100
,, ,, Bakehouses	31
,, ,, Offensive Trades	158
,, ,, Farms	21
,, ,, Vans used as dwellings	27
,, in respect of Infectious Disease	314
Patients removed to Marland Hospital...	5
Rooms fumigated...	131
Infectious disease reported...	99
Swine fever	1

Nuisances found existing during the year 1897.

Defective privies	20
,, ashpits	36
,, sanitary cans	20

Nuisances found existing during the year 1897. *(continued).*

Defective eaves gutters	7
,, downspouts	17
,, drains	17
,, traps	4
,, trap basins	4
,, back yards	51
,, channels	18
,, waste pipes	53
,, roofs	6
,, floors	2
,, passage	1
,, waste water closets tippers	4
Dirty back yards	6
,, closets	8
,, workshop	1
,, dwelling houses	2
Dangerous steps	2
,, walls	18
,, wood building	1
,, privies	5
,, kitchen	1
,, chimneys	2
,, bedroom floors	2
,, ash places	2
Damp rooms	25
Blocked drains	58
,, downspouts	2
,, waste water closets	8
Insufficient closet accommodation	4
,, ashpit ,,	2
No ashpit accommodation	27
Untrapped drains	100
Waste pipes connected to drains	21
Brick pave kitchen floors	14
Inefficient traps	2

Nuisances found existing, (continued)

Stagnant sewage in back yards	4
No ashpit doors	4
Offensive urinal	1
No closet door	1
No basin on top of gully trap	7
Effluvium nuisances	5
Inefficient ventilating pipes...	2
Unventilated soil pipes	2
Soil pipe vent shafts discharging under bedroom windows	2
Dirty stables...	2
Waste pipes connected to soil pipes	2
Offensive manure heaps	6
Brick drains...	15
House drain discharging on field	1
No ashpit roof	1
No eaves gutter	1
No back door	5
Brick paved back yards	26
Keeping Animals	7
Back to back houses	6
Unpaved back yards	9

Nuisances abated during 1897.

Defective waste w.c., tipper made good		1
,,	privies ,, ,, ...	6
,,	ashpits ,, ,, ...	9
,,	sanitary cans ,, ,, ...	21
,,	eaves gutters ,, ,, ...	2
,,	downspouts ,, ,, ...	13
,,	drains ,, ,, ...	11
,,	traps ,, ,, ...	2
,,	trap basins ,, ,, ...	3
,,	back yards ,, ,, ...	6
,,	channels ,, ,, ...	7
,,	waste pipes ,, ,, ...	47
,,	roofs ,, ,, ...	8

Nuisances abated, (continued).

Defective floors made good	2
,, passage ,, ,, ...	1
Waste pipes disconnected from drains, ...	11
Blocked drains opened	52
Drains trapped	63
Downspouts provided	2
Privies converted to sanitary cans	27
Dangerous steps repaired	2
Drains provided	1
Damp rooms rendered dry	9
Dangerous privies made safe	2
Dangerous ashpits made safe	2
Bell traps removed	4
Flushing cistern to w.c. provided	1
Additional closet accommodation provided	1
Eaves gutter provided	1
Dirty workshop cleaned	1
Dirty back-yards cleaned	2
Blocked w.c's. opened	9
Ashpit doors provided...	2
Blocked downspouts opened	2
Wet ashpits to dry ashplaces	29
Effluvium nuisance abated	1
Dirty houses cleaned	2
Ashplaces provided	13
Dirty stable cleaned	1
Manure heaps removed	3
Dangerous walls repaired	2
House drains connected to sewer	1
Pipe drains to replace brick drains	12
Earthenware tile to replace brick channel	2
Dangerous wood shed removed	1
Animals removed	4
Efficient trap provided	1
Dangerous buildings made safe	3

Nuisances requiring abatement on 31st Dec. 1897.

Waste pipes connected to drains	15
Defective rainwater pipes	13
,, eaves gutters	10
,, waste pipes	21
,, privies	20
,, ashpits	33
,, back-yards	18
,, drains	2
,, channels	7
,, trap	1
,, trap basin	1
,, roofs	3
,, floors	2
,, waste water closet	1
Untrapped drain	43
Insufficient closet accomodation	2
Dirty back-yards	2
Dangerous house chimneys	3
Want of drain	1
Inefficient ventilating pipes	2
Termination of ventilating pipes under bedroom window	2
Unventilated soil pipes	2
Waste pipes connected to soil pipes	2
Dangerous walls	10
Back-to-back houses	7
No Ashpit	2
Brick drains	2
No eaves gutter	2
No backdoors	5
Dangerous steps	1
Brick paved back-yards	26
Dangerous privies	5
Damp rooms	17
Dangerous scullery	1

Nuisances requiring abatement, (continued).

Brick channels	1
Offensive Urinals...	2
Keeping animals, poultry, &c.	2
Brick paved kitchen floors	12
Inadequate ashpit accommodation	1
Offensive manure heaps	1
Unpaved back yards	8
No trap basins	7
Brick channels	3
Blocked waste water closets	3

Infectious Disease.

	No.	Rooms Fumigated.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	46	111	1
Typhoid Fever	17	36	3
Puerperal Fever.....	4	—	—
Erysipelas	26	—	—
Diptheria	4	11	1
Membranous	2	—	—
	99	148	5

Canal Boats Act.

M'th.	No. of boats.		M'th.	No. of boats.	
Jan.	1		July	4	6 children on board.
Feb.	2	2 children on board.	Aug.	3	
Mar.	2		Sept.	5	1 did not produce certificate
Apr.	1	1 child on board.	Oct.	4	1 did not produce cert
May	1		Nov.	1	
June	2		Dec.	6	
				32	

Of the thirty two boats inspected two failed to produce the certificate when asked for, in each case notice was served upon the owners and complied with. The boats were registered

for one hundred and thirty one and occupied by eighty six persons, comprised of fifty seven males, sixteen females (adults), and thirteen children. The cabins were clean, free from overcrowding and infectious disease.

Smoke Observations.

Firm.	Address.	Number of Observations.	Average Black Smoke per hour. M.	S.
Townley Spinning Co.....	Spring Vale.....	5	8	$14\frac{3}{5}$
Albany Spinning Co.....	Old Hall Street.....	4	4	$58\frac{1}{4}$
Wilton Manufacturing Co.	Townley Street	2	1	20
David Walker.....	Gas Street.....	2	1	35
Robert Mc Bride.....	Off Wood Street	1	0	0
S. Lawton & Sons.....	Cross Street	1	4	45
T. B. Wood & Co.....	Suffield Street	4	6	$21\frac{3}{4}$
W. W. Hulton	Kemp Street	1	1	15
Hy. Cocker & Co	Wood Street.....	4	5	$32\frac{1}{4}$
Mark Fletcher & Son.....	Wood Street	4	5	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Mather & Ormesher.....	Manchester New Rd.	3	9	28
Irk Spinning Co.	Oldham Road.....	3	3	$20\frac{2}{3}$
E. Kempsey & Co.	Townley Street.....	6	8	$23\frac{2}{3}$
Gorton & Halliday.	Park Lane.....	3	5	$36\frac{1}{3}$
Rhodes Manufacturing Co.	Rhodes	1	4	35
Richard Ashworth & Sons	Spring Vale	2	2	27
Midd. & Tonge Spin. Co.	Dane Street	4	12	$55\frac{3}{4}$
Kay & Smith.....	Rhodes	1	5	35
Dickins & Heywood.....	Spring Vale.....	3	8	38
W. G. Thompson.....	Tonge Springs	3	3	43
Boarshaw Rais. & Fin. Co.	Boarshaw Road.....	1	0	0
Salis Schwabe & Co.....	Rhodes	2	22	$56\frac{1}{2}$
Irkdale Bleaching Co	Algernon Street.....	6	13	$11\frac{2}{3}$
Thomas Partington.....	Green Street	2	22	$30\frac{1}{2}$
R. K. Lee & Co.....	Green Street	4	12	$2\frac{1}{4}$
Tonge Vale Spinning Co.	Tonge Vale	4	9	21
S. Barlow & Co.....	Stakehill	1	10	18
Raynor Frost & Co.....	Rhodes	1	4	16

Seventy eighty smoke observations have been taken during the year and the limit of twelve minutes has been exceeded on thirteen occasions, notice of abatement was ordered and served in five cases, in six cases proceedings were taken with the result that two firms were fined five shillings and costs, the remainder were ordered to abate the nuisance and pay costs. The average time that black smoke was emitted for the seventy eight observations is two minutes and thirty four seconds.

Removal of Nightsoil.

M'nth.	No. of Pails Emptied	No. of Loads.	Cost per Month. £	s.	d.	Cost per pail. d.	Loads Midd'ns	Loads Dry Ashes.	Cost per Month £	s.	d.	Cost per Load. s.	d.	Total cost per Month. £	s.	d.
Jan. ..	10554	182	41	14	2	·949	199	330	67	1	9	2	6¼	108	15	11
Feb...	10776	212	42	7	0	·944	277	349	73	14	2	2	4¼	116	1	2
Mar...	13339	232	52	6	0	·948	368	379	90	11	4	2	5	142	17	4
Apr...	10361	189	41	1	4	·951	157	373	64	3	6	2	5	105	4	10
May ..	10745	187	41	14	2	·931	266	335	79	5	11	2	7	121	0	1
June ..	14062	251	54	10	10	·930	283	447	86	11	0	2	4½	141	1	10
July ..	11108	203	46	10	4	1·00	307	318	78	0	7	2	6	124	10	11
Aug...	10312	179	41	7	9	·963	179	370	68	16	11	2	6	110	4	8
Sept...	14555	254	58	7	10	·963	281	416	95	13	6	2	8¾	154	1	4
Oct. ..	11109	199	44	5	6	·956	215	305	72	7	6	2	9	116	13	0
Nov...	11118	194	44	5	6	·956	192	296	79	12	2	3	3	123	17	8
Dec...	14024	242	55	3	8	·944	220	442	87	3	10	2	7½	142	7	6
Total–	142253	2524	563	18	3		2944	4360	943	2	2			1506	16	3

Total 1897.....Pails emptied 142,253
,, 1896..... ,, 140,874—1379 increase.
,, 1897.....Loads, pails 2,524
,, 1896..... ,, 2,495—29 increase.
,, 1897.....Midden Loads 2,944
,, 1896..... ,, 2,905—39 increase.
,, 1897.....Dry Ashes, Loads, 4,360
,, 1896..... ,, 3,528—832 increase

Total cost for 1897.....£1,506 16s. 3d.
,, ,, 1896.....£1,413 14s 1d.—£93 2s. 2d. increase.
Total cost per load, pails, middens, & dry ashes, 1897..3s. 0¾d.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1896..3s. 3$\frac{5}{16}$d.—2$\frac{9}{16}$d. decrs.

The removal of Nightsoil from the districts of Hebers, Birch, and Bowlee, since March, 1897, has been carried out by the Corporation instead of by contract; by this arrangement there has been less complaints than in previous years, and the work carried out in a more satisfactory manner.

Shop Hours Acts.

There has been no infringement of the above acts detected during the year. There is considerable difficulty in detecting infringements of the above Acts, owing to employers being able to employ their assistants (young persons) any number of hours per day, providing the limit of seventy hours per week be not exceeded.

Contagious Disease (Animals) Act.

There has been one outbreak of swine fever during the year. Seven pigs were attacked, the animals were slaughtered, and buried in carbolic powder and lime.

A case of supposed swine fever from Kiln Street was also reported, but upon investigation proved to be untrue.

Seizures of diseased and unwholesome Food.

During the year, four seizures of diseased, unsound, and unwholesome food have been made. Three of the seizures were effected in a slaughterhouse, two being beasts that had suffered from tuberculosis, the other a diseased piece of meat (a liver); the remaining case was effected from a hawker's cart, and consisted of five rabbits and one piece of fish which were in an advanced state of decomposition; in the last case only were legal proceedings taken, and a penalty of five shillings and costs was inflicted upon the owner.

Firing House Chimneys.

Twenty-six persons have been summoned to appear before the Watch Committee for the above offence. In seventeen cases the offenders were cautioned, the remainder were fined one shilling each.

Foods and Drugs Acts.

During the year, six samples of milk have been tested with the lactometer, and appeared to be of good quality. No samples have been submitted for analysis.

Market Receipts.

Month.	£	s.	d.	Number of Stallholders.	Cost of Sweeping. £	s.	d.
January	9	2	4	84	0	5	2
February	5	11	3	120	0	6	2
March.....	7	5	10	168	0	8	1
April	8	1	3	152	0	6	10
May	7	18	9	202	0	5	9
June	4	10	6	120	0	8	6
July.....	6	19	5	184	0	6	8
August	42	7	8	231	0	18	2
September	4	16	3	133	0	15	4
October	5	5	11	145	0	12	10
November	6	19	3	164	0	14	5
December	4	11	3	119	0	14	7
	£113	9	8	1822	£6	2	6

Receipts 1897...	113	9	8	Cost of sweeping, 1897...	6	2	6
,, 1896...	131	4	3	,, 1896...	5	8	2
	£17	14	6	Increase.....	£0	14	2

The decrease in the receipts is owing to the reduced receipts at the Wakes, and the wet weather we have experienced on Market nights.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Charles Hy. Norton,

Inspector of Nuisances.